

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01

SAM-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CPR-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9907

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 09965

E.O. 11652: XGDS1-DECLASSIFY AFTER PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

TAGS: EEC, US, PINR (SPAACK, M. FERNAND), PFOR

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF SPAACK AS HEAD OF EC DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON

REFS: (A) STATE 221024, 9 NOV. 1973

(B) EC BRUSSELS 6071, 24 OCT. 1973

1. SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION INTENDS TO NOMINATE FERNAND SPAACK TO REPLACE Krag AS HEAD OF THE EC DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON. NO OFFICIAL AGREEMENT IS INVOLVED BUT THE COMMISSION WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY INDICATION OF SPAACK'S ACCEPTABILITY FOR THIS POST. END SUMMARY.

2. EC COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH (ACTING FOR EC VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS SOAMES), CALLED ME IN NOVEMBER 5 TO TRANSMIT THE COMMISSION'S INTENTION TO NOMINATE SPAACK, CURRENTLY EC DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENERGY, TO REPLACE Krag.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PRACTICE THE COMMISSION REQUESTS THAT THE USG INDICATE ACCEPTABILITY OF THIS NOMINATION. SINCE THE POSITION DOES NOT INVOLVE FORMAL ACCREDITATION AS AMBASSADOR, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE USG GIVING AGREEMENT. GUNDELACH SAID IT WAS UP TO THE USG WHETHER IT WANTED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THIS INQUIRY, TO STATE THAT IT HAD NO OBJECTION, OR TO GIVE NO RESPONSE AT ALL. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SPAACK IS EXPECTED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION TEAM FOR THE US/EC BILATERAL
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CONSULTATIONS NOVEMBER 18-19, GUNDELACH REQUESTED

PROMPT ACTION. HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE USG TO INDICATE WELCOME OR NO OBJECTION BY NOVEMBER 12. IF USG TAKES THE SILENCE OPTION, GUNDELACH ASKS THAT A DEADLINE BE SET (PREFERABLY NOV. 12) AFTER WHICH ABSENCE OF ANY RESPONSE WOULD MEAN NO OBJECTION.

4. ONCE INDICATION (OR LACK OF OBJECTION) IS RECEIVED FROM THE USG, THE COMMISSION WILL PREPARE A FORMAL NOTE VERBALE AND LETTER OF CREDENCE IN EXACTLY THE SAME LANGUAGE AS WAS CLEARED WITH THE DEPARTMENT IN THE KRAIG CASE (REFTELS). AT THAT TIME THE COMMISSION WOULD ALSO MAKE A PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPAAK'S APPOINTMENT. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE COMMISSION WOULD TRY TO MAKE THIS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE SPAAK VISITS WASHINGTON AS PART OF THE DELEGATION FOR THE US/EC CONSULTATIONS. IN ANY EVENT, SPAAK WOULD NOT TAKE UP HIS POSITION IN WASHINGTON UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR.

5. GUNDELACH HANDED ME THE FOLLOWING CV ON SPAAK (INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION. BEGIN TEXT: SPAAK WAS BORN AUGUST 8, 1923 IN BRUSSELS. IN 1942 HE INTERRUPTED HIS STUDIES AND WENT TO ENGLAND WHERE HE SERVED IN THE ROYAL NAVY. IN 1948 HE WAS GRADUATED FROM THE FREE UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS WITH A DOCTOR OF LAW DEGREE AND HE RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FUND FOR WORK ON PROBLEMS OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. IN 1950 HE AGAIN WENT TO ENGLAND, TO CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE RECEIVED A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN POLITICAL ECONOMY. HE RETURNED TO BRUSSELS AND JOINED THE BELGIAN NATIONAL BANK. IN 1952, WHEN THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY WAS FOUNDED, HE JOINED THE HIGH AUTHORITY WHERE HE SERVED AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT (CHEF DE CABINET) TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH AUTHORITY, FIRST JEAN MONNET AND THEN RENE MAYER. WHEN MAYER LEFT THE HIGH AUTHORITY, SPAAK WAS NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT IN THE HIGH AUTHORITY DEALING WITH AGREEMENTS AND MERGERS. IN 1960 HE WAS NAMED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE

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SUPPLY AGENCY OF THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY AND LATER, IN ADDITION, SERVED AS ITS DIRECTOR OF SECURITY CONTROL. SINCE THE MERGER OF THE EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE BODIES IN 1967, MR. SPAAK HAS BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENERGY OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES. END TEXT. GREENWALD

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